(c) and (d) During the current year, the Government of India "has introduced the following internationally accepted methods in the filed of family planning in the state.

(i) Copper-T 380A

(ii) Emergency Contraception Pills for females.

Proliferation of Spurious Drugs

535. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proliferation of spurious drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government do not have adequate machinery to check proliferation of spurious drugs; and

(d) the steps taken to strengthen control mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per feedback available from the State licensing authorities during the period 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2202, 35570, 36947 and 34574 samples were tested and out of which 115,112 and 98 samples were found spurious respectively. Thus, there does not appear to be proliferation of spurious drugs in the country.

(c) and (d) As per the feedbeack available from the State licensing authorities, there are 812 drugs inspectors in position in the country. Besides there are 21 labs available in 19 States/UTs. and 4 Central labs to validate the quality of drugs manufactured and sold in the market.

Central Government have taken following steps to strengthen the control mechanism.

(i) Assistance to State Governments to augment the infrastructure of drug control organization. During the 8th & 9th Plan Budget, Rs. 12 crores were released as grant under Cnetral Sponsored Scheme to the States/UTs for purchase of drug testing equipments or construction of their laboratory building.ln order

to improve the information system for States/UTs, computerization project is being implemented during the 9th & 10th Plan Budget with an amount of Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) In the 10th Plan, a capacity building project assisted by World Bank is also being finalized for strengthening of State and Central Drugs sector with sanction outlay of Rs. 94 crores. The main strategy is to focus on development of capacity in drugs sector through development of infrastructure including of upgrading of laboratories, training of regulatory staff and industry personnel. This project is in the final stage of negotiaton with the Bank. EFC clearance has already been obtained.

(iii) The requirments of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) have been made stricter through amendment to Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, to ensure hproductin of better quality drugs across the country.

(iv) A programme to undertaken technical audit of all drugs testing labs, in the country has also been undertaken.

Health Grants Commission

536. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal to Government to set up a Health Grants Commission to look after the medical education in the country on the lines of University Grants Commission; and

(b) if so, Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Central Government has a proposal to establish Medical Grants Commission on the lines of University Grants Commission.

Implementation of Reproductive and Child Health Programme

537. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have succeeded in implementing Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme as per the National Population Policy, 2002;